



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 19, 2008

Contact: Destry Henderson

202-225-2006

McMorris Rodgers' Statement on Empire Health Sale

(Washington, D.C.) Today, Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers released the following statement regarding Providence Health Care's decision to drop the lawsuit against Empire Health Services.

"I am thankful Providence Health Care dropped this lawsuit, which may have jeopardized Empire Health Services' planned sale to Community Health Systems. If done in cooperation with our community, the sale of EHS to CHS will benefit our region and can benefit shared resources, like Inland Northwest Health Services. A two hospital system in Spokane will help maintain competition, continue to provide access to health care and bring additional investments in 21st century health care services.

"I am optimistic CHS will uphold its pledge to invest at least \$100 million over the next five years to allow for investment in health information technology and important infrastructure improvements across the existing EHS system. I believe CHS' commitment will continue the progress Eastern Washington has made to move our health care system into the 21st century as a leader in health information technology.

"I remain steadfast in ensuring access to quality and affordable health care that Eastern Washington has come to expect. I am committed to making sure this sale has a positive impact on our community, health care workers, providers, and those who are dependent on receiving the best care available."

###